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3 March 1964

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

*Cyprus: Relations between the Greek Government and the Greek Cypriots have improved following Athens' adoption of a tougher line toward Ankara.

Premier Papandreou's warnings to Turkey against unilateral intervention, combined with press reports of troop alerts and naval movements, have contributed to this improvement. Cyprus' Acting Foreign Minister and Interior Minister arrived in Athens yesterday to consult with Papandreou and other Greek leaders.

Papandreou may have chosen to align Greece more closely with Makarios partly to counter growing Soviet influence among the Greek Cypriots. He also is responsive to growing Greek popular support of Makarios' stand.

In exchange for his espousal of Makarios' demand for revision of the Cyprus settlement, Papandreou is said to have requested that the Greek Cypriots henceforth consult with Athens before adopting any new course of action.

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Nigeria



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Nigeria: The hostile reaction in southern Nigeria to the census results announced last week may result in a crisis which could break up the federation.

Representation in the Federal Parliament, for which elections are due by the end of this year, is to be based on the census. The announced results gave the Muslim North more than half of the claimed 55.6-million total.

The reaction has been particularly bitter in the Eastern Region, which suffered most. Regional Premier Okpara has publicly rejected the figures as being greatly inflated for the North. Some of the region's politicians say they are prepared to "go it alone"--presumably meaning to secede.

Youth groups in the Western Region have also sharply criticized the results. Militants there probably will use the issue to attack regional Premier Akintola, who has accepted the results and who lacks strong popular support.

Although efforts will be made to reach a political compromise, northerners are likely to reject any settlement which would reduce their absolute majority in Parliament.

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DAILY BRIEF

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*Gabon: President Mba's position is deteriorating rapidly in the face of popular opposition to him and his French supporters.

[The US Embassy in Libreville reported last night that a major action against Mba by forces comprising segments of all elements of the population was imminent. Anti-government elements appear willing to sacrifice lives to underscore their contention that the Mba government stands only because it has French backing.]

A general strike closed public services and businesses in Libreville yesterday. Street demonstrators demanded Mba's resignation and called for withdrawal of the French troops which restored him to power two weeks ago.

Paris frequently has stated that it would not support a leader in its former territories in the face of widespread popular opposition. In intervening on Mba's behalf on 18 February, France claimed it was acting to suppress a mutiny which had only limited support.

The French probably will step up pressure on Mba to bring opposition elements into a coalition government. It is not clear whether they will continue to back him against massive popular opposition.

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*Dominican Republic: [Government leaders planned to meet last night to consider reports that former president Joaquin Balaguer is to return shortly from exile in New York.]

[Police and security forces were alerted as of 2110 EST after a strike by taxi drivers earlier in the day led to apprehension that an outbreak of violence might pave the way for Balaguer's return.]

[Growing talk of Balaguer as a presidential candidate has prompted efforts by politicians close to the Dominican triumvirate to bar him from future elections. However, he commands important support in the armed forces.]

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[If the civilian and military leaders fail to reach a consensus, Balaguer's return could provoke serious clashes with the prospect of major violence.]

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NOTES

EEC - Nationalist China: [France's veto of Nationalist China's ambassador-designate to the EEC last month apparently did not foreclose Taipei's establishing diplomatic relations with the community. The other five EEC members may take the position that a unanimous decision of the Council of Ministers last October to accept a Nationalist mission still stands. It has been suggested that such a mission might be established under a chargé without raising the question of agreement among the Six.]

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DAILY BRIEF

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